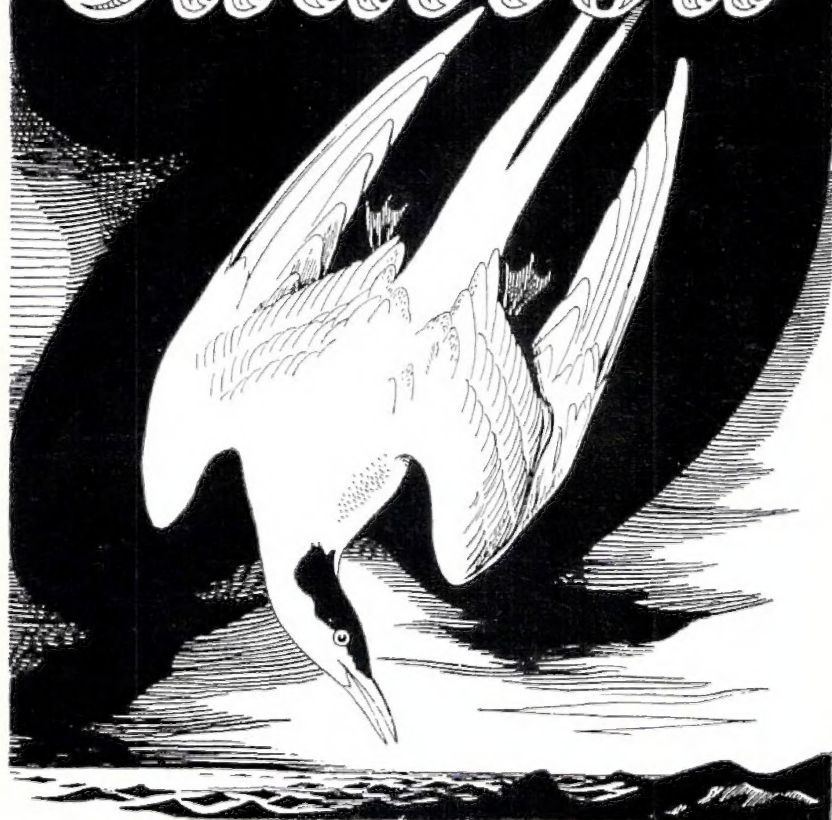


JUBILEE ISSUE - VOL. 27 - 1976/77

# *the Sea Swallow*



BEING THE ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE ROYAL NAVAL  
BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY

PUBLISHED 1978

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Albatrosses breeding on Midway I. – Hawaiian Is.



Laysan Albatross, *Diomedea immutabilis*



Black-footed Albatross, *Diomedea nigripes*

Photos: Commander Mike Harris, R.N.

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## FOREWORD

This issue of *Sea Swallow* is rightly called the Jubilee Issue in accord with the celebrations and commemoration of our Queen's Silver Jubilee. We are fortunate to have as our Patron of the society His Royal Highness Prince Philip, who as we all know is deeply interested in birds and not the least sea birds. He is, in fact, an authority in his own right.

We are proud also to count among our members His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales.

The Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal has its accent on young people and the help that young people can give to others. The Royal Naval Birdwatching Society associates itself with this outlook. More and more young people in the country are embarking on projects for the benefit of the community and in aid of conservation of wild life. The greater the awareness of protecting the wild life in the world the greater the chances of avoiding the extinction of rare species through man's folly and ignorance. R.N.B.W.S. by gathering and disseminating knowledge of ocean birds is playing its part in this respect.

Observations of sea birds depend more and more on ocean going ships, both of the Royal Navy and the Merchant Navy. It is therefore satisfying that sea reports from members continue to flow in and increase.

While the administration of R.N.B.W.S. is still in the hands of older members, the responsibility for observations must lie in the hands of younger members, who, in due course must assume responsibility for the administration.

So, in this year of the Queen's Jubilee I urge all members to try to get more young people interested in bird life and join the society.

They will never regret it.

NIGEL HENDERSON, *President*

## EDITORIAL

**MEMBERSHIP.** Since the publication of *Sea Swallow* Vol. 26 – 1975/76 28 new members have joined and 5 associate members. During the year inevitably we lost some members due to deaths, resignations, arrears of subscriptions, etc. Present membership however has been maintained and now stands at 349 (cf. 342 last year), full members excluding 84 associate members, museums and libraries and the number of R.N.B.W.S. local representatives overseas.

**SEA REPORTS.** Sea passage returns SEABIRDS have covered 73 passages up to date of which 7 have included details of seabirds examined in the hand onboard. Sea passage returns covering landbirds have also increased; and in one instance Captain P. W. G. Chilman on passage within the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico between 21st and 29th April, 1977, particularly when 54 miles south of the southern tip of the Mississippi delta had many birds onboard and on one occasion was able to take up and examine in the hand at least 16 different species, the majority on northward migration. Our thanks are also due to our observers on Ocean Weather Ship Station LIMA, the one remaining O.W.S. station operating and to the excellent work of the returns by the meteorological reporting ships.

**PUBLICITY.** The interest and enjoyment of studying and identifying both seabirds and landbirds at sea during sea voyages has clearly engaged the interest of editors of nautical magazines which has resulted in requests to your Editor to provide suitable articles for their magazines with R.N.B.W.S. photographs. One whole page article appeared in *Navy News*, January, 1977, kindly contributed by Commander Mike Harris, R.N., R.N.B.W.S. A second article (the first of a series of articles), "Spot the Birdie" by Captain Ronald Hawkins, R.N., R.N.B.W.S., appeared in the Mission to Seamen magazine *The Sea*, May, June, 1977, and a third article is in course of preparation for *The Mariner*, the journal of the Marconi International Marine Company Limited. Meantime Mr Peter E. Firth is also writing an article of a similar nature on behalf of John Moore Associates for Lloyds Calendar 1978.

We much appreciate these requests and the help given by Captain Hawkins, Commander Harris and Mr E. Firth. In each case the attention of readers has been called to the means of application to R.N.B.W.S. membership for those who would or might be eligible.

PUBLICATION OF *A FIELD GUIDE TO THE SEABIRDS  
OF THE WORLD*

At long last I have completed the book which could not have been possible without the outstanding reporting and identifying work of our members at sea over a long period. The publishers, Collins, of 14 St. James's Place, London, SW1A 1PS have informed me that publication is expected in the early Spring of 1978.

The International Edition would certainly be the most suitable for any members who might wish to obtain it, and it is being dedicated to past, present and future members of the Royal Naval Birdwatching Society.

Best wishes to all,

G. S. TUCK, *Editor*



THE ANTARCTIC FULMAR,  
*FULMARIS GLACIALOIDES*,  
AT HOME NEAR ELEPHANT ISLAND

By Commander J. R. Furse, F.R.G.S., Royal Navy

The Petrels originated as birds of the South Pacific, first recognisable in the Eocene epoch nearly 60 million years ago. About 35 million years ago in the Oligocene they evolved rapidly to exploit food resources, filling every ecological niche in the southern oceans.

Some Petrels make huge oceanic migrations into the northern hemisphere, like the little Wilson's Storm-Petrel, breeding round the Antarctic and reaching Newfoundland and beyond in its regular annual migration. Once or twice in millions of years, a few Petrels from the far south have settled in the north to evolve into more or less distinct species.

The Fulmars evolved in the south 30 million years ago in the Miocene. Perhaps only 1 million years ago in the Pleistocene, some Antarctic Fulmars moved into the North Pacific. They spread into the Arctic Ocean and more recently into the temperate regions of the Atlantic Ocean. These are our familiar Northern (or Arctic) Fulmars, *Fulmarus glacialis*.

The (original) Antarctic species was first described in 1826. Given many names (like Silver-grey Petrel, *Priocella antarctica*), it is now called the Antarctic (or Southern) Fulmar, *f. glacialoides*. This and *f. glacialis* are the only recognised members of the genus *fulmarus*. The relationship between the two species is clear in their appearance, but the Antarctic species is more delicate and supple, with longer more slender bill, more strongly marked wings, and no dark or blue phase is known.

The Antarctic Fulmar breeds all round Antarctica, but in the western hemisphere only on outlying islands: Bouvetoga, South Sandwich, South Orkney and Peter Oy. In the South Shetlands I have no details apart from the Elephant Island group which lies at the eastern extremity of these islands, 100 kilometers north of the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula, 600 km SSE of Cape Horn and 100-200 km south of the Antarctic Convergence.

Prevost described its breeding biology in Adelie Land after the only detailed study I know of. The adults return to Pointe Geologie there in October, after being absent all winter. The single white eggs are laid over 2 weeks from 5-20 December, and incubated by the parents in rotation for 45-47 days (maximum 51) until hatching 14-31 January. The adults take turns brooding the chick continuously for 8-16 days, then sitting beside guarding it until, at 17-38 days age, they leave it, to forage at sea, returning only to feed the chick every day or two. The chick departs alone between 12 and 28 March after a 50-55 day fledging period, (of



Arctic Fulmar: 53 days incubation and 48 days fledging). Non-breeders comprise 20% of birds in the colony until departing at the end of December. Of breeders, 38-58% fail to produce fledgelings. Non-breeders may moult in January, but successful breeders probably moult at sea in late March and April.

In 1970-71 I was ornithologist on the Joint Services Expedition to Elephant Island. I covered almost all of that island in 4 months, saw only a dozen Fulmars, and found none nesting. Their absence was very surprising, as our surveyors reported many nesting near a couple of trig points they occupied briefly on the satellite islands. The similar Cape Pigeon, *Daption capensis*, was present everywhere.

In 1976-77 I myself led another Joint Services Expedition to explore for the first time the outlying islands of this wild group. We were the first Antarctic expedition to rely on canoes which we used both to move around the islands and to collect fish and plankton. Was the Fulmars' uneven breeding density related to food supplies, and so to the water masses from the Weddel and Bellingshausen Seas mixing there? Would the Fulmars breeding dates be the same as in Terre Adelie far to the west and south?

We made a 3 month census of the breeding birds on all the islands to quantify the variations. Only Cape Pigeons nested on Elephant and Seal Islands, where they were in large numbers. To the east and southeast, Cornwallis and Clarence Islands, both species bred abundantly. South and southwest on Gibbs, Aspland, Eadie and O'Brien Islands breeding Fulmars vastly outnumbered the Cape Pigeons. In due course some logical pattern may emerge when sifting our mass of field data, even though frequent gale, storm and hurricane force winds curtailed our related programmes on marine biology.

Adelie Penguins bred only on Clarence (SE) and Antarctic Petrels frequented only Gibbs (SW), whilst Gentoo Penguins, Snow Petrels and Giant Petrels bred only on Elephant (N), but none of these variations matched that of the Fulmars.

Fulmars occupied a wide variety of nest sites up to 500 meters above sea-level from tiny ledges on vertical cliffs to gentle slopes on the downhill side of rocks. The slightly smaller Cape Pigeon nested in a narrower range of sites on broken rock slopes of medium steepness up to definite ceiling heights of 100-200 meters.

Fulmars were always flying around the nesting cliffs until the chicks hatched, with most activity in the evenings. When we landed in mid-December, the eggs had been laid and were being incubated by single adults. Pairs sitting together almost invariably proved to have no eggs. These gash non-breeders or failed breeders dwindled after the chicks hatched, but not as conclusively as at Pointe Geologie (e.g. on 28 January, of 82 nests with adults, 9 had no offspring).



Of several hundred Fulmars approached and lifted, only one or two vomited or spat oil. (Few Cape Pigeons failed so to do.) This was surprising remembering the Arctic Fulmar's evil smelling reputation.

Hatching on Gibbs occurred in a very concentrated period between 15 and 24 January, which we monitored by random samples of up to 120 nests, (e.g. on 13 January there was 1 chipped egg in 52 nests checked; on 16 January there were 31 chipped eggs and 4 chicks in 92 nests checked; on 26 January there were 18 chicks and 1 addled egg in 19 nests checked.) This closely corresponds to the Fulmars at Pointe Geologie. Smaller samples of up to 20 nests of Cape Pigeons showed similar synchronised hatching a week or two earlier on Gibbs (9-17 January), which corresponds to the Cape Pigeons at Pointe Geologie and at the South Orkneys. (Surprisingly Cape Pigeons on Elephant itself appeared to be earlier in the first week of January.) The closely synchronised hatching of these two Petrels is typical of several local species dependant directly or indirectly on plankton (Chinstrap and Macaroni Penguins, Giant Petrels and Sheathbills). The fish eaters (Blue-eyed Shags, Gentoo Penguins and Antarctic Terns) and the smaller species vulnerable to heavy snowfalls (Black-bellied and Wilson's Storm-Petrels and Antarctic Terns) exhibit the other extreme of scattered breeding dates with up to 8 weeks between the first and last hatching dates for each species.

Returning over the top of Gibbs Island in the middle watch on 1 February (after a roped swim round a point at midnight) two of us got lost in the darkness. Straying on to the cliffs we discovered by chance that there were no adults at all with the Fulmar chicks at the 25 nests we passed, whilst the previous afternoon 59 chicks had been guarded or brooded out of 60 checked. Similar observations at other sites in the following days corroborated this startling discovery, which very strongly suggested that the Antarctic Fulmar is a nocturnal feeder. Nocturnal feeding is one possible mechanism for ecological separation between this species and the Cape Pigeon.

One of two Fulmars collected on Gibbs contained a bright orange crustacea not found in any of the 60 odd food samples collected from other species. Whenever a Leopard (or Fur Seal) killed a penguin, Cape Pigeons crowded round to scavenge with the Giant Petrels, Kelp Gulls and Wilson's Storm-Petrels; it was interesting that I never saw a Fulmar join these milling throngs, even when thousands occupied the cliffs above. In this the Antarctic species is very different from its scavenging Arctic relative.

Cape Pigeons were seen in moult around Elephant and the South Shetlands in late March, but, in two expeditions, my only observations of Antarctic Fulmars moulting was a flock in the Straits of Magellan in early April 1971.



Finally, I must say that I found these Antarctic Fulmars the most attractive and wholly delightful birds. Their mad laughter provided character as a welcome relief from the monotonous gabbling of the penguins. Perhaps the most evocative setting was for three of my team making the first ascent of the spectacular peak on Clarence Island which they named Jubilee Peak: over 2200 feet vertically above the sea. The only sound they could hear was the squeal of Fulmars from the gloom below their feet. Most delightful of all was to sit beside one of these soft, confiding birds, and gently lift it from its warm egg while it quibbled in quiet protest and nibbled harmlessly at one's fingers, its great dark eyes peaceful and unafraid. The old sailors believed that these Mollies were the spirits of drowned sailors and that it was unlucky to kill them. Of course those quaint old ideas were just ignorant superstitions, without scientific basis; they were pure coincidences that, soon after collecting my first Fulmar for science I got a crampon spike deep in my wrist in a climbing fall, and that soon after collecting the other, my whole 8-man party was marooned on a storm-swept beach for five days and nights.

#### CERTAIN SMALLER ALBATROSSES (KNOWN LOCALLY AS MOLLYMAWKS) BREEDING IN NEW ZEALAND SEA AREAS

Mr P. Meeth, R.N.B.W.S. of the Netherlands, when on passage from New Zealand towards Peru, kindly sent to R.N.B.W.S. some colour prints of photographs taken by him of certain of these generally lesser known species. They comprise: Buller's Albatross, *Diomedea bulleri*, the Bounty Island Albatross, *Diomedea salvini*, and the Chatham Island Albatross, *Diomedea erimita* and considered by some as sub-species of the Shy Albatross, *Diomedea cauta*.

#### CHARACTERISTICS

**BULLER'S ALBATROSS.** 25 ins, 63.5 cms. Wingspan 6 ft 10 ins. Forehead white. Head, cheeks, hindneck, mantle and tail grey, throat and neck paler grey. Superficially resembles slightly larger Grey-headed Albatross, *Diomedea chrysostoma*, which however has no white forehead. Wings above blackish-brown; underbody and underwings white with black tips. Leading edges of underwings broadly edged black, trailing edges finely edged black. Bill with central dull black band at sides and broad yellow bands along upper and lower surfaces of bill, nails often of a brighter yellow. Skin of gape orange. Feet and legs bluish-flesh. A white arc shows behind and below eye. Immatures have blackish bills, the upper and lower bands turning horn and later yellow with age. Breeds on Chatham Island, Solander Island and Snares. A rare visitor to Australia.



1. Buller's  
Albatross or  
Mollymawk,  
*Diomedea  
bulleri*

1. Buller's  
Albatross or  
Mollymawk –  
underside



2. Grey-headed  
Albatross.  
Closer photo  
for comparison  
with 1.



Photos 1 and 2  
by P. Meeth,  
R.N.B.W.S.



BOUNTY ISLAND ALBATROSS, *Diomedea salvini*. 25-30 ins, 63.5-76.2 cms. Wingspan similar to Buller's. Forehead white, head and neck extensively grey spreading past cheeks and neck. Mantle feathers paler grey than in any other two species, contrasting noticeably with dark upperwings. Underbody below neck and underwings white, tips black, both leading and trailing edges finely edged black. Bill noticeably darker along central area and paler on culmen and mandible. Breeds on Bounty Island and Snares.



3. Chatham Island Albatross or Mollymawk, *Diomedea erimita*  
Closer photo by P. Meeth, R.N.B.W.S.

CHATHAM ISLAND ALBATROSS, *Diomedea erimita*. 25-30 ins, 63.5-76.2 cms. Slightly smaller than Bounty Island Albatross. Crown pale grey, cheeks and neck even darker grey making very little contrast with mantle, and much darker in overall pigmentation. Underbody below neck and underwings white, both leading and trailing edges finely edged black. Bill very distinctive, rich chrome yellow overall. Breeds only on Pyramid Rock, Chatham Islands.



4. Grey-backed Shearwater

Photos 3 and 4 by P. Meeth, R.N.B.W.S.





Wilson's Storm-Petrel, *Oceanites oceanicus*  
Photo: Joint Services Expedition to Elephant Island Group

## SOME FIELD CHARACTERISTICS OF WILSON'S STORM-PETRELS

(Extracts from a paper recently received from Bernard King)

The author discussed the possibility whether the cries emanating from Wilson's Storm-Petrels when excited in the presence of a quantity of surface feed to help to identify the species from other storm-petrels when feeding close to a ship at night.

When his ship, M.V. *Goram*, whose engines and generator broke down in very stormy weather at night in the Bay of Biscay on 31 July, 1973, shadowy objects flitting around the ship were seen by one of the crew which he felt must have been birds as he told me that they appeared to be uttering high-pitched cries the like of which were unknown to him. Bernard King continues "I kept to the lee in very strong gusts and rain on the upper deck to try to listen for the noises, then I could hear sustained querulous sounds like a gathering of house sparrows fussing around prior to roosting as the ship drifted helplessly.

Sometimes these cries were very near, then as suddenly some distance away, only to appear again. I felt confident that these were birds as a colleague had been able to discern birds near him, and I felt confident that these were Wilson's Storm-Petrels, *Oceanites oceanicus*.

I am familiar with British Storm-Petrels, *Hydrobates pelagicus*, and Leach's Storm-Petrels, *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, which do not cry as I have described, nor, I understand, does the Madeiran Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma castro*. The Handbook (Witherby *et al*) 1940, 4: 36, states that B. B. Roberts considered that Wilson's Storm-Petrels' calling was indeed like the chattering of sparrows similar to what we heard that night. R. S. Palmer, Handbook of North American Birds (1962) 1: 246-247, states that Wilson's Storm-Petrels give an almost inaudible 'peeping' when excited."

(Note by Editor. We would like to receive any further notes on this aspect from our members.)

### OTHER POINTS REMARKED ON

On 6 August in brilliant sunny weather off the coast of Portugal splendid views of Wilson's Storm-Petrels were obtained. They appeared very dark and robust in body; wings rather thick set with slightly rounded tips in flight. They showed well defined median and greater greyish upper wing bands outwardly fringed whitish, and with very long legs which they trail behind them in flight. As often happens however they retain their legs close to their bodies when they extend no more than two or three centimetres beyond their central tail feathers, difficult to discern as they skim the surface. The webs of the feet, often referred to as



yellow, are in fact dull or blackish with only the centre portion yellow or ochreous, thus impossible to detect when feet and toes are compressed as occurs usually in flight.

While following the ship their side on sweeps and glides were fascinating to watch, criss-crossing one another within the wide angle of the ship's wake.

(*Note by Editor.* When feeding on the surface they frequently dangle their feet and patter along the surface, and will also dive to get food.)

## OCEAN WEATHER SHIP REPORTS 1976/77

### SEABIRDS

By J. H. Agnew, R.N.B.W.S.

Almost continuous reports throughout the year were received from Observers at Station Lima (57°N; 20°W). In some instances these were added to by observations made by Ships' Officers, and certain species counts taken at different times during the same day gave a clear illustration of the shifting population of bird life around a single spot on the ocean.

As has been noted in Volume 26 of *Sea Swallow*, Weather Station Lima is now the only one manned by British Weather Ships.

The observations were made and the reports sent in by Messrs. G. Allen; R. C. Aran; R. Basingthwaite; R. J. Burness; D. E. Hampton; R. M. Hayward; D. A. McKenzie; R. MacLean; D. Ogle: all of whom are again thanked for their continuing efforts.

A table has been made up to give a month-by-month indication of numbers sighted. This table can be directly compared with that in the last issue.

One mention was made of oiled birds – Kittiwake and Glaucous Gulls – in mid-January. Roseate Terns were recorded on station (on three consecutive tours), and Little Shearwaters were sighted by the Watchkeeping Officer on three separate occasions in August and September.

Of the 20900 Fulmar Petrels counted during the year, 73 were noted as "Blue Phase", the majority (53) of which were sighted in June.

*Sixteen*

OCEAN WEATHER SHIP OBSERVATIONS  
SUMMARY OF SIGHTINGS, STATION LIMA (57°N; 20°W)  
October, 1976 to September, 1977

	MONTH											
	Oc	No	De	Ja	Fe	Ma	Ap	My	Ju	Jy	Au	Se
Fulmar	x	x	x	x	x	o	x	x	o	x	o	o
Great Shearwater	—									—	—	o
Sooty Shearwater	—								—	—	—	o
Manx Shearwater	—					—			—		o	o
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	—									—	—	
British Storm-Petrel											—	—
Leach's Storm-Petrel	—											
Gannet	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Skua	—	—			—	—	o	o	—	o	o	—
Pomarine Skua	—						—	—	—	—	—	—
Arctic Skua	—					—	—		—	—	—	—
Long-tailed Skua								—	—		—	
Ivory Gull											o	—
Herring Gull				—				—		—		
Lesser B.-Backed Gull	—	—	—		—	—	o	o	—	o		—
Great B.-Backed Gull	—			o		—	—	o	—	—		
Glaucous Gull				—		—	—	—				
Iceland Gull	—			—								
Kittiwake	x	x	o	o	o	x	x	x	o	o	o	o
Black-Headed Gull								—				
Terns: Arctic										—	—	—
Common										—	—	—
Roseate										—	—	—
Little Auk								—	—			
Guillemots								—B	—			
Puffin										—		
Little Shearwater											—	—

Key: x Average sightings of more than 50 per day.  
o Average sightings between 1 and 50 per day.  
— Occasional sightings.  
B Brunnich's.



## LANDBIRD SUMMARY

By Commander M. B. Casement, R.N.

Once again I am indebted to Mr J. D. W. Brown of the Meteorological Office for the valuable extracts from Met. Logs of Merchant Ships. Several of these are supported by excellent drawings and photographs.

From R.N.B.W.S. members the response has been similar in quantity but better in quality than in previous years. Pride of place must go to 2nd Engineer S. J. Hingston for his series of detailed observations and especially the two spectacular "falls" of birds off Newfoundland (see Table D). These incidents graphically illustrate the perils encountered by birds on migration caught in bad weather and an idea of the scale of mortality suffered on these occasions. The two White-throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) which survived to reach U.K. provide a rare example which proves how at least some North American species reach our shores in autumn.

The number of birds examined in the hand has also been exceptional (38) and the enclosure of wings and tail feathers of those which died has been especially useful for confirming the identity in many cases.

Landbird observations are analysed in the tables following using the same format as in previous years. In Table B, however, I have been able to take the analysis a stage further thanks to the almost daily reporting from the same area by Radio Officer W. F. Curtis. It has been possible to build up a very valuable picture of spring migration into S.E. Iceland. It is interesting to compare this with the records over a similar period in April/May 1973 (see Table D of *Sea Swallow* 23).

Close examination of the tables will show a number of remarkable records including several species not to my knowledge recorded at sea for example:

Black-winged Stilt (*Hymantopus hymantopus*)

Table E (twice), Table G

Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*) Table A, Table E (twice)

Nutcracker (*Nucifraga caryocactes*) Table C

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) Table C

and in the Mediterranean (Table E):

Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*)

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*)

Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*) (twice)

Also, in Table C, is the most northerly record to date, received from H.M.S. *Sovereign* on her trip to the North Pole.

Good bird-watching to you all in 1978, and in order to ease the burden of work from our tireless chairman, Captain Tuck, do please feel free to write to me direct with your records of landbirds.

# OCEAN WEATHER SHIPS -- STATION REPORTS OF LANDBIRDS

Analysis by Commander M. B. Casement, R.N.

The following reports have been received during the period 1976-77 (up to 1 October, 1977).

STATION LIMA (position 57°00'N, 20°00'W) 210nm WSW Rockall, 450nm S. Iceland. Details are shown in the table below of all observations of landbirds recorded on station. Many of these have been extracted from completed seabird report forms.

## 1976

9-28 Sept	Weather Surveyor	D. E. Hampton
2-24 Oct	Weather Reporter	D. Ogle, G. Allen
27 Oct-16 Nov	Weather Surveyor	D. E. Hampton
19 Nov-11 Dec	Weather Reporter	R. Hayward

## 1977

8-30 Jan	Weather Reporter	D. Ogle, R. J. Burness
31 Jan-23 Feb	Weather Surveyor	No landbirds seen D. E. Hampton
24 Feb-21 Mar	Weather Reporter	No landbirds D. Ogle, G. Allen
23 Mar-13 Apr	Admiral FitzRoy	R. Maclean
17 Apr-7 May	Weather Reporter	D. Ogle, G. Allen
8-30 May	Admiral FitzRoy	
30 May-23 Jun	Admiral Beaufort	
24 Jun-17 Jul	Admiral FitzRoy	2 Racing Pigeons only R. C. Aran
10 Aug-5 Sept	Admiral FitzRoy	R. Bazingthwaite

No reports of birds examined in the hand were received during the period. Although records were rather sparse as compared with earlier years the general pattern appeared very similar.



## OCEAN STATION LIMA

Date	Time arr GMT	Species (Latin name)	Wind, Weather, Vis.	Remarks
1976				
Sept 13		Meadow Pipit ( <i>Anthus pratensis</i> )		S
14		Wheatear ( <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> )		S
17		Wheatear		S
18		Wheatear		S
19		Wheatear		S
23		Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> )		S until 25th
25		Tree Pipit ( <i>Anthus trivialis</i> )		S
26		Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> )		
Oct 2		Common Sandpiper ( <i>Tringa hypoleucos</i> )		
3		Meadow Pipit (2)		
4		Meadow Pipit		
27		Raven ( <i>Corvus Corax</i> ) (5)		S until 29th
28		Velvet Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> )		
Nov 21		(Chiffchaff?) ( <i>Phylloscopus</i> ) Warbler		S
1977				
Jan 21		Blackbird ( <i>Turdus merula</i> ) (F)		
22		Fieldfare ( <i>Turdus pilaris</i> )		
28		Blackbird (2)		
Apr 15		Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> )		
17		Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> )		
		House Martin ( <i>Delichon urbica</i> ) (2)		
May 1		Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> )		
4		Greylag Goose (4)		
5		Brambling ( <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i> )		S until 7th
		Wheatear		S until 7th

	7		White Wagtail ( <i>Motacilla alba</i> )		
	8	1400	Brambling	SE/18kts	Arrived exhausted 110SW Rockall, fed and ringed
	12		Wheatear	290/06	Flew past, dep NW
	15		Wheatear	010/12	Flew past, dep NW
	25		Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> )	140/13	Circled, dep NW, winter plumage
	28		Swallow ( <i>Hirundo rustica</i> )	360/02	Circled
	30		Turnstone	150/09	S
	30	0515	Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> )	150/09	S. Exhausted
		0530	Greylag Goose		C. Dep N
		1000	Dunlin	160/09	S
Aug	13		Snow Bunting (2) ( <i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i> )		Flew past. Winter plumage
	22		Willow Warbler ( <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i> )		S 12 hrs, D
	24		Snow Bunting		Flying ESE
	25		Snow Bunting (2)		Flying ESE
	27		Snow Bunting (2)		Flying ESE
	31		Whimbrel (5) ( <i>Numenius phaeopus</i> )		Flying SE
Sept	2		Dunlin		S few mins



## SEA REPORT SHEETS

Analysis by Commander M. B. Casement, R.N.

The following reports of landbirds seen at sea were received during 1976/77 up to 1 October, 1977.

## 1975

<i>Observer/Ship</i>	<i>Passage</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Sea Areas</i>
1. Capt. P. W. G. Chilman, M.N. S.S. 'Mysella'	Persian Gulf to Clyde	16 Jan 23 Jan	A	E. Atlantic (W. Africa)
2. Capt. P. W. G. Chilman, M.N. S.S. 'Latia'	Rotterdam to Persian Gulf	7-10 Jun 21 Jul	B	North Sea East Atlantic, Persian Gulf
3. Radio Off. W. Weitkovitz, Hamburg M.N. M.V. 'Tanga'	to E. African ports via Suez	12-28 Oct	C	Biscay, Med., Red Sea, Persian Gulf
4. Capt. P. W. G. Chilman, M.N. S.S. 'Lotorium'	Persian Gulf Rotterdam	29 Oct-3 Nov	D	Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea
5. Capt. P. W. G. Chilman, M.N. S.S. 'Lotorium'	Rotterdam - Persian Gulf	4-10 Nov	E	Indian Ocean

## 1976

1. Radio Off. W. F. Curtis, M.N. R.F.A. 'Tidepool'	Iceland Patrol	24 Feb-26 May	A	N. Atlantic
2. Lt. M. K. Barritt, R.N. H.M.S. 'Beagle'	Florida - Bermuda Bermuda - Portsmouth	5 Apr- 18-20 Apr	B	W. and E. Atlantic
3. Lt. P. Hughes, R.N. H.M.S. 'Lowestoft'	Iceland Patrol	14-15 May	C	N. Atlantic
4. Capt. K. Salwegter S.S. 'Amstelmeer'	Sardinia to New Orleans	26 Jun-1 Jul	D	Gulf of Mexico
5. 2nd Engineer S. J. Hingston, M.N. M.V. 'Sugar Crystal'	S. France - New Orleans	17-27 Aug	E	E. and W. Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico

6.	Capt. K. Salwegter, M.N. S.S. 'Amstelmeer'	Galveston to Port Said	10-11 Sept	F	E. Atlantic, Med.
7.	2nd Eng. S. J. Hingston, M.N. M.V. 'Sugar Crystal'	New Orleans to Greece	19-20 Sept	G	Med.
8.	Capt. J. W. Waldie, M.N. M.V. 'Mersey Bridge'	France to G. of Mexico (U.S.A.)	26 Sept	H	W. Atlantic
9.	Capt. D. M. Simpson, M.N. M.V. 'Northern Worker'	Persian Gulf	5-18 Oct	J	Persian Gulf
10.	2nd Eng. S. J. Hingston, M.N. M.V. 'Sugar Crystal'	Greece to Sicily	10-13 Oct	J	Med.
11.	Capt. W. C. W. Price, M.N. S.S. 'Mobil Tern'	Kwa Iboe to Curacao and return	14 Oct-12 Dec	K	W. and E. Atlantic
12.	Cdr. M. G. T. Harris, R.N. H.M.S. 'Sovereign'	Devonport to North Pole	15 Oct	L	Greenland Sea
13.	Capt. J. W. Waldie, M.N. M.V. 'Mersey Bridge'	U.S.A. to U.K. and return	25 Oct- 10-16 Nov	M	W. and E. Atlantic
14.	2nd Eng. S. J. Hingston, M.N. M.V. 'Sugar Crystal'	Gibraltar - Quebec - U.K.	25 Oct 4-9 Nov	N	W. and E. Atlantic Gulf of St. Lawrence
15.	Capt. J. W. Waldie, M.N. M.V. 'Mersey Bridge'	Alabama - Panama	20-23 Nov	O	Gulf of Mexico
			1977		
1.	Radio Off. W. Weitkowitz S.S. 'Dalia'	Mombasa - Reunion	3 Jan	A	Indian Ocean
2.	Capt. A. S. Young, M.N. M.V. 'Volnay'	Norfolk Va. - Mississippi - Panama	7-24 May	B	W. Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico
3.	Radio Off. W. Weitkowitz S.S. 'Annemarie Kruger'	Dubai to Busan and return	19-23 May	C	Pacific, Yellow Sea
4.	2nd Eng. S. J. Hingston, M.N. M.V. 'Sugar Carrier'	London to Spain	29-30 May	D	Biscay and Iberlant
5.	Capt. D. W. Luff, M.N. M.V. 'Westbury'	London to Brazil	4-10 Jun	E	Iberlant, E. Atlantic (W. Africa)
6.	Capt. A. S. Young, M.N. M.V. 'Volnay'	Hiroshima to Antwerp	26 Jun-13 Aug	F	Indian Ocean, Gulf of Aden, Red Sea
7.	Ch. Off. K. W. Joughin M.V. 'Drina'	Hamburg to Sheerness	12 Aug	G	N. Sea

## ANALYSIS BY SEA AREAS

This analysis includes reports from the following sources:

- a) R.N.B.W.S. Sea Report Sheets (Landbirds) - indicated by reference letters
- b) Meteorological Log Returns (identifiable species only) - indicated by MET
- c) My own observations recorded in H.M.S. *Mohawk* - shown by MBC

Observations are analysed in the following tables by sea areas:

- Table A East Atlantic (East of 30°W) including Biscay and Iberian
- B North Atlantic (approaches to Iceland)
- C North Sea, English Channel, Baltic and Greenland Sea
- D West Atlantic (West of 30°W) including Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico
- E Mediterranean
- F Indian Ocean, Red Sea and Persian Gulf
- G Pacific

Note. The reference letter in column 2 of each table refers back to the passage details shown in column 4 of the table above.

## BIRDS EXAMINED IN THE HAND

No less than 38 reports were received during the period from:

- 2nd Eng. S. J. Hingston - M.V. *Sugar Crystal* (14)  
including several colour slides and wings
- Capt. P. W. G. Chilman - S.S. *Lotonium* (1)  
S.S. *Laconica* (6)  
S.S. *Lemzulus* (16)
- MBC H.M.S. *Mohawk* (1)

Details are given in the appropriate tables as shown by notation X in the remarks column.

Other notations used in the tables: BM - corpse sent to British Museum, Tring; P - Photograph taken.



TABLE A  
EAST ATLANTIC (EAST OF 30°W) INCLUDING BISCAY AND IBERLANT

1975

<i>Date (time)</i>	<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Species (Latin name)</i>	<i>Posn. (nearest land)</i>	<i>Remarks, weather, etc.</i>
16 Jan 0930	A	Little Egret ( <i>Egretta egretta</i> )	14°24'N 18°05'W	Flying low N. N/5 bc
23 Jan 1400	A	Black-tailed Godwit	40' SW Cap Vert 40°28'N 13°14'W	S 30 mins, dep NW. NW/6 overcast, rain
9 Jun 1900	B	House Martin ( <i>Delichon urbica</i> )	180°WNW Portugal 46°11'N 08°47'W	S 1 day. NW/5 overcast, drizzle
		Tree Sparrow ( <i>Passer domesticus</i> )	200°N C. Finisterre 150' Spanish Coast	S 1 day. Died 12th. X
10 Jun 0915	B	Turtle Dove ( <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> )	44°22'N 10°11'W	S 3 days. Died 13th. X. NW/6 overcast
12 Oct	C	Robin (2) ( <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> ) Redstart (F) ( <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> ) Firecrest (3) ( <i>Regulus ignicapillus</i> ) Goldcrest (Several) ( <i>Regulus regulus</i> ) Chaffinch (5) ( <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> )	97' NNW C. Finisterre Central Bay of Biscay	Seen on board throughout day. Wind NW slight

1976

18 Apr	B	Eider (M) ( <i>Somateria mollissima</i> )	47°57'N 17°45'W	In sea. SSE/9kts
20 Apr 1000	B	Sparrow Hawk ( <i>Accipiter nisus</i> )	400' SW Ireland 49°14'N 08°23'W	S 2 hrs. Mobbed by gulls. NE/8kts
17 Aug 1900	E	Turtle Dove Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> )	85' SW Scillies 33°36'N 22°W 240' W Madeira	S 1 hr, exhausted. Arr from N. Light wind. Vis good. S. Shy
10 Sept 0900	F	Wheatear (F) ( <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> )	36°20'N 10°04'W 90' SW C. St. Vincent	S all day

## ANALYSIS BY SEA AREAS—TABLE A 1976 (continued)

Date (time)	Ref.	Species (Latin name)	Posn. (nearest land)	Remarks, weather, etc.
17 Sept	MET	Turtle Dove (20)	20°51'N 17°30'W 25'W C. Blanco	S.S. <i>Botany Bay</i> . S until Gibraltar
19 Sept	X	Meadow Pipit ( <i>Anthus pratensis</i> )	49°36'N 03°42'W 37'S Start Point	Capt. Chilman, M.N. S.S. <i>Laconia</i> . D. X
27 Sept	X	Swallow (2) ( <i>Hirundo rustica</i> )	12°15'N 18°40'W 162'W Dakar	Capt. Chilman, M.N. S. Died 28th. X, 7/8 Cu nim rain. Good vis
10 Oct 1630	MBC	Swallow	36°51'N 08°53'W 8'SSW P. de Sagres	280/15kts bc 10nm rain showers
25 Oct 0800	H	Carriion Crow (3) ( <i>Corvus corone</i> ) Jackdaw (11) ( <i>Corvus monedula</i> )	48°48'N 11°20'W 200' SSW Ireland (C. Clear)	Arr together from W. S 5 hrs. All but 2 dep NE. Wind WNW/4
8 Nov	J	Redpoll (2) ( <i>Acanthis flammea</i> ) Wheatear	52°33'N 24°26'W 600'W Ireland 870'S Iceland 1000'SE Greenland	Arr N. S till dusk. Arctic Race? Shy S briefly. Dep ESE. Large (Greenland race?). Wind var/2 7/8 st cu. Light rain
9 Nov	J	Jackdaw (34) Rook ( <i>Corvus frugilegus</i> )	51°05'N 13°54'W 140'SW Ireland	Arr two groups (14, 20 inc 3 Rooks). S until Felixstowe 12th. Ate all food given plus 2 Robins on 11th in English Channel
2 Dec	MET	Yellow Wagtail ( <i>Motacilla flava</i> )	7°38'N 15°27'W 140'SW Freetown	S briefly. NE/9kts. Blue-headed? M.V. <i>Clan MacIlwraith</i>
12 Dec	K	Purple Gallinule ( <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i> )	4°50'N 17°30'W 360'SW Sierra Leone	S. Good vis overcast Lt. airs

1977

19 Apr 0900	MET	Whimbrel ( <i>Numenius phaeopus</i> )	44°22'N 8°37'W 46'N Coast Spain	S. Dep 1430. S. S. <i>Flinders Bay</i> (Capt. K. E. Howard, M.N.). Good sketch
19 Apr	MET	Whimbrel/Curlew ( <i>N. phaeopus/arquata</i> )	32°15'N 13°48'W 220'W Morocco 150'E Madeira	M.V. <i>Shonga</i>
29 May 0900 1700	D	Swallow House Martin (3)	46°52'N 06°41'W 112'WSW France	S 4 hrs. ENE/2 overcast vis poor S until p.m. 30th
30 May 1600	D	Turtle Dove Wryneck ( <i>Jynx torquilla</i> ) Garden Warbler (2) ( <i>Sylvia borin</i> ) Whitethroat ( <i>Sylvia communis</i> )	43°23'N 09°27'W 17'NW Corunna (Spain)	S till dusk S till dusk. Shy S. Shy S till dusk. Wind E/2 continuous light rain. Vis mod
4 Jun 1400	E	Nightjar ( <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> ) House Martin (2) Swallow	39°N 13°10'W 170'W Portugal	S briefly. N/3 S until 5th S few mins
5 Jun 1300	E	Swift (2) ( <i>Apus apus</i> )	34°16'N 16°30'W 90'N Madeira	Circled 1 hr. NW/2
10 Jun	E	Swift/Pallid Swift (2) <i>A. apus</i> or <i>A. pallidus</i> )	9°20'N 28°15'W 450'SW C. Verde Is.	One S 1 hr. NE/3



TABLE B

## NORTH ATLANTIC (APPROACHES TO ICELAND)

The following analysis of Spring migrants arriving in Iceland during 1976 is built up primarily from the daily reports (22 April-23 May and 30 May) from Radio Officer W. F. Curtis of R.F.A. *Tidepool*, (Ref. A) and also Lt. P. Hughes, R.N. of H.M.S. *Lowestoft*, (Ref. C). The area of observations was, in the main, about 65°N 12°W (i.e. about 45'SE of Iceland). The weather throughout the period was unremarkable for the time of year. Winds were predominantly northerly (NE on 8 days) and generally less than force 5 except on the following occasions:

1-2 May (NE force 7)  
17 May (NW force 7)  
21-22 May (NE force 5)

It is perhaps significant that all three occasions heralded a number of observations of geese movements. The following species were recorded:

Rock Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) – Onboard almost daily. Numbers varied 1-7 (29 Apr) average 3.

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) – Onboard on 11 days (22 April - 30 May), mostly singles but with peaks on 15 May (4), 19 May (14) and 20 May (8).

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) – One or two onboard almost daily 22 April - 1 May.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) – Regularly 7-22 May mostly singles flying NW high and calling but group of 9 on 17th.

Oyster Catcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) – Recorded 22 April - 10 May singly or small groups (11 on 28 April, 9 on 10 May). Flying N or NW.

Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) – 1 onboard 24 and 27 April. 3 circled ship, dep W on 29 April, one circled 4 May.

Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) – 2 flew past heading towards Iceland 28 April and 4 on 30 April. One onboard 4 May.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) – 1 circled 4 May, 1 onboard 14 May.

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) – Passage in small numbers 1-7 May.

1 May 2 arr from SE

2 May 3 circled a.m.

4 May 3 arr from E dep W

6 May 1 circled a.m.

7 May 1 circled dep NW

White Fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) – Three large skeins sighted flying NW 3 May (176), 5 May (39), 23 May (41). Heavy black barring on breasts noted.

Pinkfoot (*Anser brachyrhynchos*) – Four sightings 3 May (18), 4 May (18), 5 May (3) and 18 May (18). On 18 May ship was 35'NE Iceland and group arrived from NE heading SE. With winds force 7 from NW the previous day they probably had overshot their destination and were correcting southwards.

Seaup (*Aythya marila*) – Four sightings 3 May (3), 15 May (6M + 5F), 18 May (7M + 4F) and 22 May (1). On 18 May flying SE as Pinkfoot above.

Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) – One heading NW on 6 May.

Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) – 7 on 18 May heading SE towards Iceland, 20 May (3), 22 May (4), 30 May (3) flying NW.

Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) – Only one sighted throughout whole period – onboard 9 May when 30'SE Iceland. (See note)

Lapland Bunting (*Calcarius lapponicus*) – One on 7 May, arr S, circled ship and dep NW calling, one on 23 May.

Knot (*Calidris canutus*) – On 20 May, group of 14 with 3 Turnstone and 1 Whimbrel. One flying NW on 30 May.

Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*) – One circling ship 23 May.

Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) – One in sea alongside 20 May, 40'SE Iceland.

Comment. I find the single observation of Wheatear rather surprising. Although the main movement of this species is probably completed by 22 April, I would have expected more stragglers to have been seen. This lack of records suggests to me that the main influx into Iceland takes place further to the west and does not stage through Faeroes. Some evidence is slowly building up to support the theory that this species can, and occasionally does, migrate west of British Isles non-stop to West Africa (see also Table A of this issue, 10 September and 8 November, 1976).

*Autumn Migration.* A single observation only extracted from MET records of M.V. *Miranda*, 26-27 September in position 64°50'N 11°50'W (45'SE Iceland). Wind 030/9kts.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*) – Two

Golden Plover

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

And about 500 small birds including Snow Bunting, Lapland Bunting and Redpoll. One Falcon was seen to catch small birds which it consumed from a stanchion, but also one in flight. This is the third case of in-flight-refuelling known to me; (see *Sea Swallow* 24, page 43).

TABLE C  
NORTH SEA, ENGLISH CHANNEL BALTIC AND GREENLAND SEA

1976

Date (time)	Ref.	Species (Latin name)	Posn. (nearest land)	Remarks, weather, etc.
7 Jun	B	Spotted Flycatcher (2) ( <i>Muscicapa striata</i> )	51°48' .8N 02°29' .6E 39' NNW Ostend	S. NE/2 bz
1440		Swallow (3) ( <i>Hirundo rustica</i> )		3 singles
1530		Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> )	51°41' N 02°17' E 39' ESE Harwich	Arr W dep E
1630		Swift (2) ( <i>Apus apus</i> )	51°31' N 02°01' E 23' ENE N Foreland	2 singles
1830		Spotted Flycatcher Collared Dove (2) ( <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> )	51°10' N 01°40' E 7' SE Dover	S until 2000
8 Jun 1700	B	Turtle Dove ( <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> )	49°23' N 04°26' W 45' SE Lizard 42' N France	Flying NNE. Wind E/3
15 Jul 1530	MBC	Black Tern (2) ( <i>Chlidonias niger</i> ) Collared Dove (2)	Straits of Dover	Flying NW. Wind NW/3 bc Flying S
Comment. The above movements illustrate the variety of small-scale cross-channel movements which take place even in mid-summer.				
16 Sept	X	Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> )	52°01' N 03°01' E 40' E Hook of Holland	Capt. Chilman, S.S. <i>Laconica</i> . S 3 hrs. D. X
17 Sept	MET	Green Sandpiper ( <i>Tringa ochropus</i> ) Pied Wagtail (2) ( <i>Motacilla alba</i> ) Siskin (F) ( <i>Carduelis spinus</i> )	53°45' N 04° E W. of Heligoland	Capt. McGeoch, S.S. <i>British Vine</i>
16 Sept-15 Oct	MET	Chaffinch ( <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> ) Greenfinch ( <i>Carduelis chloris</i> ) Yellow Hammer ( <i>Emberiza citrinella</i> )	54°50' N 01°08' W 15' off Durham	Oil drilling rig, <i>Wimpey Sealab</i> (Capt. A. Stewart). Large numbers seen daily
30 Sept		Tawny Owl ( <i>Strix aluco</i> )		



1 Oct		Robin ( <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> ) Nuthatch ( <i>Sitta europaea</i> )	54°50' N 01°08' W	Oil Drilling Rig Wimpey Sealab (Capt. A. Stewart) off Durham
3 Oct		Blackcap ( <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> )		
6 Oct		Pied Wagtail Tawny Owl Starling ( <i>Sternus vulgaris</i> ) Sparrow Hawk ( <i>Accipiter nisus</i> ) Chaffinch		S Few only remain
15 Oct	L	Fieldfare? ( <i>Turdus pilaris</i> )	78°45' N 1°50' W	Circled several times. S/7 for
15 Oct 1130			150' W Spitzbergen	past 3-4 days. Overcast
20 Sept 1430	MET	Greylag Goose (30) ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) Brambling (F) ( <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i> )	Baltic. S of Oland	S.S. <i>British Vine</i> . Flying S S
27 Sept 1300	MET	Sparrow Hawk (F)	59°19'13' E 15' SE offshore Islands	S.S. <i>British Vine</i> . Circled. Dep W
2 Oct 1400	MET	Brambling (c.30) Whinchat (F) ( <i>Saxicola rubetra</i> )	55°05'30' E 110' W Jutland	S.S. <i>British Vine</i> . Flying SW
16 Oct	MET	Nutcracker (2) ( <i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i> )	Southern N. Sea	S.S. <i>British Vine</i>
25 Oct p.m.	MET	3-4,000 birds of many species which roosted overnight onboard including: Starling ( <i>Sternus vulgaris</i> ) Fieldfare Rook ( <i>Corvus frugilagus</i> ) Jackdaw ( <i>Corvus monedula</i> ) Chaffinch Phylloscopi Warblers Robin Song Thrush ( <i>Turdus philomenus</i> ) Long-eared Owl ( <i>Asio otus</i> ) Blackbird ( <i>Turdus merula</i> ) Skylark ( <i>Alauda arvensis</i> )	Rotterdam deepwater anchorage	S.S. <i>La Loma</i>

## ANALYSIS BY SEA AREAS—TABLE C 1976 (continued)

Date (time)	Ref.	Species (Latin name)	Posn. (nearest land)	Remarks, weather, etc.
Late Oct-Nov	MET	Numerous landbirds including: Starling Goldfinch ( <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> ) Chaffinch Hooded Crow ( <i>Corvus corone cornix</i> ) Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) Water Rail (M) ( <i>Rallus aquaticus</i> )	57°44' N 00°55' E 40' E Kinnairds Hd.	Chief Off Beattie Forties Kiwi
19 Nov				
1977				
22 Jan	MET	Barnacle Goose ( <i>Branta leucopsis</i> )		Forties Kiwi. S 6 hrs
12 Aug	G	Pied Flycatcher ( <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i> )	52°37' N 3°03' E	S. Found dead 12th on arrival Sheerness. X. NNW/2-3

## TABLE D

## WEST ATLANTIC (WEST OF 30°W) INCLUDING CARIBBEAN AND GULF OF MEXICO

1976

Date (time)	Ref.	Species (Latin name)	Posn. (nearest land)	Remarks, weather, etc.
5 Apr 1720	B	Northern Waterthrush ( <i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i> )	38°08' N 71°17' W 160' E Delaware Bay	S 3 hrs. Dep S. 190/8kts
30 May	MET	Black-necked Stilt ( <i>Himantopus mexicanus</i> )	27° N 68°40' W 350' NE Bahamas	M.V. Ocean Bridge
24 Aug 0700	E	Prairie Warbler (F juv.) ( <i>Dendroica discolor</i> ) Wilson's Warbler (2) ( <i>Wilsonia pusilla</i> )	26°40' N 71°18' W 160' NE Bahamas 600' SE C. Hatteras	S.X.P.D. Wind NE 3/8 Alt Cu S. Good vis

		Yellowthroat (F) ( <i>Geothlypis trichas</i> )		S
		Northern Waterthrush (2)		S
		American Redstart (F) ( <i>Setophaga ruticilla</i> )		S. Shy
27 Aug 1000	E	Barn Swallow (6-7) ( <i>Hirundo rustica</i> )	25°49'N 78°02'W	S 2 hrs. Dep SW
		Purple Gallinule ( <i>Porphyrola martinica</i> )	50'S Grand Bahamas	S. X. Active. Released, flew towards land 11.5nm. Wind NW/2 1/8 ci. Good vis
29 Aug	E	Barn Swallow	26°44'N 86°36'W	S. Dep SW. SE/3-4 3/8 cu. Good vis
26 Sept 1030-1815	H	Pigeon Hawk / Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> )	35°04'N 59°15'W	Circled most of day
14 Oct 1400	K	Common Sandpiper? ( <i>Tringa hypoleucos</i> )	350' NE Bermuda 3°N 40°50'W	Wind SE/3
25 Oct 2000	M	A massive influx onboard commencing 2000 reaching a peak at about 0200/26th when it was estimated 1000+ were onboard. Species included the following found dead:		
		Ruby Crowned Kinglet (85) ( <i>Regulus calendula</i> )	47°59'N 60°43'W	7/8 cloud barometer. falling quickly. Rain showers becoming sleet and heavy snow on 26th. Wind E/4. Vis generally good
		Fox Sparrow (32) ( <i>Passerella iliaca</i> )	Gulf of St. Lawrence	
		Hermit Thrush (74) ( <i>Hylocichla guttata</i> )	SW Newfoundland	
		Swamp Sparrow (24) ( <i>Melospiza melodia</i> )	33' NE Magdalen Is.	
		White Crowned Sparrow (2) ( <i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i> )		
		American Robin (2) ( <i>Turdus migratorius</i> )		
		Slate Coloured Junco (7) ( <i>Junco hyemalis</i> )		
		Lincoln's Sparrow (55) ( <i>Melospiza lincolni</i> )		
		Total 295 dead + 110 kept alive overnight and released 26th. 8 species examined and detailed forms forwarded.		
29 Oct	MET	Snowy Egret (30+) ( <i>Leucophoyx thula</i> )	11°33'N 77°15'W 95' NE Panama	M.V. Alberni City



## ANALYSIS BY SEA AREAS—TABLE D 1976 (continued)

Date (time)	Ref.	Species (Latin name)	Posn. (nearest land)	Remarks, weather, etc.
4 Nov 1400	N	White Throated Sparrow (30+) ( <i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i> ) Swamp Sparrow (20+) Slate Coloured Junco (30+) Fox Sparrow (3) White Crowned Sparrow (6) Ruby Crowned Kinglet (12) Myrtle Warbler (5) ( <i>Dendroica coronata</i> )	49°55' N 59°08' W Gulf of St. Lawrence 37' SE Mainland Canada  Course E at 14kts.	Barometer 1029.7 steady. Wind SW/2, vis mod. Rain/snow p.m. Steady passage of birds from NW. Count taken at 1500
5 Nov 1200	N	Still present from 4th: White Throated Sparrow (7) Swamp Sparrow (2) Slate Coloured Junco (3) Fox Sparrow (1) Myrtle Warbler (1)	52°10' N 52°07' W 150' NE Belle Is. 420' E Mainland Canada	+ 3 dead. X + 1 dead. X + 1 dead. X
1400		New arrivals exhausted. Most died later: American Robin Ruby Crowned Kinglet (2) Slate Crowned Junco (2) Fox Sparrow Two White Throated Sparrows fed and kept alive until arrival in U.K.		D. X  Arr from NE S
10 Nov	MET	Myrtle Warbler	36°50' N 43°51' W Mid-Atlantic 700' W Azores 850' SE Newfoundland	M.V. <i>Columbia</i> Star. Found dead SW/3
10 Nov 1400	H	Starling ( <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> ) Snow Bunting (M) ( <i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i> )	36°57' N 42°46' W 510' W Azores 700' SE Newfoundland	Arr N. S several hrs. SSW/6 becoming W/4 S 1 hr
14 Nov 0900	H	Catbird ( <i>Dumatella carolensis</i> )	29°06' N 67°36' W 250' SW Bermuda	Arr NE. S 1 hr. NE/4
20 Nov 1000	O	Water Pipit ( <i>Anthus spinoletta</i> )	28°12' N 87°12' W 160' SW Alabama coast	S till dark. NW/6

23 Nov	O	Cattle Egret (2) ( <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> )	12°57'N 79°39'W	S 2 hrs. NNE/6
0830			180' N Panama	
1700		Cattle Egret (6)	10°53'N 79°46'W	S till dark. NNE/5
			70' N Panama	

1977

16 Bird-in-Hand forms received from Captan P. W. G. Chilman, M.N. of S.S. *Lembulus*

21 Apr		Hooded Warbler (M) ( <i>Wilsonia</i>	28°N 89°30'W	Violent thunderstorms, torren-
a.m.		<i>citrina</i> )	54'S Mississippi delta	tial rain. Overcast. Vis poor
		Blackpoll Warbler ( <i>Dendroica</i>		Found dead. X
		<i>striata</i> )		
		Oven Bird (2) ( <i>Selurus aurocapillus</i> )		Found dead. X
		Barn Swallow		Found dead. X
22 Apr		Purple Gallinule	28°N 89°30'W	Several on board, one in water
		Red-eyed Vireo ( <i>Vireo olivaceus</i> )	54'S Mississippi delta	alongside
		Wood Thrush ( <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i> )		Found dead. X. Prob arr 21st
				during storm. S. X. Wind
				W/3
24 Apr		Least Bittern ( <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i> )	28°N 89°30'W	Caught. X. Released
1630		Cattle Egret	54'S Mississippi delta	D. X
		Barn Swallow		D. X
26 Apr		Rose-breasted Grosbeak (F)	24°58'N 88°10'W	D soon. X
1300		( <i>Pheuticus ludovicianus</i> )	188' SSE Mississippi delta	
1700		Barn Swallow	24°56'N 87°37'W	D 27th
			203' N Yucaton	
27 Apr		Spotted Sandpiper ( <i>Acititis</i>	20°58'N 83°34'N	D soon. X
1830		<i>maculerial</i> )	95'SE C. San Antonio (Cuba)	
		Warbling Vireo ( <i>Vireo gilvus</i> )		Found dead. X
29 Apr		Northern Waterthrush	17°46'N 74°32'W	Found dead. X. NW/3 3/8 cu.
1700		Bobolink ( <i>Dolichonyx orizivorus</i> )	35'S of SW Haiti	Vis good

Thirty-five

TABLE E  
MEDITERRANEAN

1976

Date (time)	Ref.	Species (Latin name)	Posn. (nearest land)	Remarks, weather, etc.
19 Sept	G	Hoopoe ( <i>Upupa epops</i> )	36°40' N 14°05' E 21' S of Sicily	Sunny, fine good vis. NNW/3. S. Dep SE
1700		Whitethroat (4M, 1F) ( <i>Sylvia communis</i> )		S till dusk
		Lesser Whitethroat (22) ( <i>Sylvia curruca</i> )		S till dusk
		Garden Warbler (5) ( <i>Sylvia borin</i> )		S till dusk
		Nightingale ( <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> )		S. Shy
		Blackcap (F) ( <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> )		
		Barred Warbler ( <i>Sylvia nisoria</i> )		S. Skulking. Close view
		Turtle Dove (max. 9) ( <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> )		Several small groups throughout day
20 Sept 1600-1900	G	A number of small warblers including: Lesser Whitethroat Icterine Warbler Phylloscopus Warbler Great Reed Warbler ( <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i> )	Ionian Sea 36°25' N 18°26' E 140' SE C. Spartivento	S. Wind NW/3 S. Fine, good vis S Arr NE. S. Close view
10 Oct 1600	J	Various species throughout day including: Tree Sparrow (27) ( <i>Passer montanus</i> ) Robin Redstart (F) ( <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> ) Blackcap (1M, 1F)	36°50' N 18° E 120' E Sicily	Arr from NE in one flock. E/2 7/8 cloud, showers  S. Mobbed by sparrows



		White Wagtail (2) ( <i>Motacilla alba</i> )		
		Turtle Dove (2)		
		All remained until arrival Augusta 2345		
12 Oct	J	Many species including:	37°22'N 11°02'E	7/8 cu rain showers. Bar 1006.4
1100-1800		Red-necked Nightjar ( <i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i> )	16'N C. Bon	falling S/4-5. S 20 mins
		Blackbird (2M, 1F) ( <i>Turdus merula</i> )		S 2 hrs
		Fieldfare (5) ( <i>Turdus pilaris</i> )		S 30 mins. Poor view
		Tree Sparrow (3)		S till dusk. 1 D. X
		White Wagtail (2 juv.)		
		Red-breasted Flycatcher (3M, 3F) ( <i>Ficedula parva</i> )		3 arr 1100. 6 at 1700
		Garden Warbler ( <i>Sylvia borin</i> )		Killed by unidentified falcon, X
		Tawny Pipit ( <i>Anthus campestris</i> )		S. Exhausted. Close views
13 Oct	J	Swallow (200+) ( <i>Hirundo rustica</i> )	37°15'N 6°13'E	2 S. Exhausted. Flock of 200
1500-1815			9'N C. Bougaroni (Algeria)	flying S low. Several seen to fall into rough sea. WNW/7
				7/8 cloud, poor vis
19 Oct	MBC	Kestrel (8) ( <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> )	36°N 15°30'E	Singles. Flying S
a.m.		Robin (2)	E of Malta	S
		Tree Sparrow		S
		Whitethroat (2)		S
		Sub-Alpine Warbler ( <i>Sylvia cantillans</i> )		S briefly
		Skylark (8) ( <i>Alauda arvensis</i> )		Group flying SW
24 Oct	MBC	Throughout day variety of species seen on board:	Tyrrhenian Sea	SW/4
		Robin (c.12)	39°N 11°30'E	Many stayed all day. Others
		Song Thrush ( <i>Turdus philomelos</i> )	75'NW Sicily	passing in ones and twos.
		Redstart		Main direction SW into
		Black Redstart (F) ( <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> )		headwind
		Chaffinch ( <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> )		
		White Wagtail		

ANALYSIS BY SEA AREAS—TABLE E 1976 (*continued*)

Date (time)	Ref.	Species (Latin name)	Posn. (nearest land)	Remarks, weather, etc.
		Grey Wagtail ( <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> )		
		Stonechat (F) ( <i>Saxicola torquata</i> )		
		Grasshopper Warbler ( <i>Locustella naevia</i> )		
		Skylark		
		Phylloscopus Warbler		
2 Nov	MET	Chaffinch (1M, 1F)	37°12' N 07°38' E	S.S. <i>British Vine</i> S 2 days
		Mistle Thrush ( <i>Turdus viscivorus</i> )	28' N Algerian Coast	S. Dep S
3 Nov	MET	Black Redstart (2)	36°40' N 15°40' E	S.S. <i>British Vine</i>
		Wryneck (4) ( <i>Jynx torquilla</i> )	50' E Sicily	S

## 1977

27 Mar	MET	Hoopoe	38°N 05°E	M.V. <i>British Tamar</i>
		Sardinian Warbler ( <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i> )	100' SE Majorca	
31 Mar	MET	Blackwinged Stilt ( <i>Hymantopus hymantopus</i> )	70' N Algeria	M.V. <i>British Tamar</i> . Flying N
			37°38' N 02°36' E	
			90' S Balearic Is.	
18 Apr	MBC	Blackwinged Stilt (2)	55' N Algiers	Flying N
			36°55' N 02°30' E	
			130° S Balearic Is.	
		Letter from J. N. McKelvie, M.B.O.U., passenger in S.S. <i>Uganda</i> , reports a large variety of birds sighted onboard including:		
		Wryneck	37°N 20' E	Weather fine
		Nightingale	Ionian Sea	
		Whitethroat		
		Lesser Whitethroat		
		Wood Warbler ( <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> )		
		Pied Flycatcher (F) ( <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i> )		
		Tawny Pipit		

21 Apr		Tree Pipit (2) ( <i>Anthus trivialis</i> )			
20 May		<i>flava</i> Wagtails (8-9) ( <i>Motacilla</i>			
1515C		<i>flava</i> )			
12 Aug		Woodchat Shrike ( <i>Lanius senator</i> )			
1500-1700	MBC	Bee Eater ( <i>Merops apiaster</i> )	36°03'N 29°32'SE		Inc. <i>M. f. flava</i> , <i>M. f. cinereo-</i>
			5'S Mainland Turkey		<i>capilla</i> , <i>M. f. thunbergi</i>
	F	Swift (3) ( <i>Apus apus</i> )	37°40'N 7°23'E		Tired. X. S 30 mins. Dep N.
			35'N Algerian Coast		Many small parasites
					1 at 1500 circling. 2 at 1700.
					W/1

TABLE F  
INDIAN OCEAN, RED SEA AND PERSIAN GULF

1975

Date (time)	Ref.	Species (Latin name)	Posn. (nearest land)	Remarks, weather, etc.
21 Jul	B	Hobby ( <i>Falco sabbuteo</i> )	26°56'N 50°02'E	S. Light wind bz
p.m.			6½m Ras al Ju 'aymah	
21 Oct	C	Swallow (3) ( <i>Hirundo rustica</i> )	25°30'N 35°27'E	S briefly
		Wheatear (F) ( <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> )	Red Sea	S
		Blackcap ( <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> )		S. Wind light var
22 Oct	C	Swallow	20°02'N 38°58'E	S. Wind light var
		White Wagtail ( <i>Motacilla alba</i> )		S
26 Oct	C	Stone Curlew ( <i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i> )	05°N 48'E	S. Wind light var
		Isabelline Wheatear ( <i>Oenanthe</i>		S
		<i>isabellina</i> )		
		Ortolan Bunting (F) ( <i>Emberiza</i>		S
		<i>hortulana</i> )		
		Swallow		S



ANALYSIS BY SEA AREAS—TABLE F 1975 (continued)

Date (time)	Ref.	Species (Latin name)	Posn. (nearest land)	Remarks, weather, etc.
27 Oct	C	Stone Curlew	0°59'N 45°17'E	S. SE/2
		Turnstone (2) ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> )	45'SE Mogadishu	Circled slip
		Nightjar (F) ( <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> )		S
		Roller ( <i>Coracias garrulus</i> )		S
		Blue-Cheeked Bee-Eater ( <i>Merops superciliosus</i> )		S
		Brown-Hooded Kingfisher ( <i>Halcyon albiventris</i> )		S
		Richard's Pipit ( <i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i> )		S
		Red-Backed Shrike (1M, 1F) ( <i>Lanius collurio</i> )		S
		Pied Wheatear (F) ( <i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i> )		S
28 Oct	C	Pied Wheatear	3°04'S 40°59'E	S
		Spotted Flycatcher ( <i>Muscicapa striata</i> )	30'E Malindi	S. SE/3-4
29 Oct 1645	D	Nightjar	28°14'N 50°23'E	S. NW/3 b
		Lanner Falcon? ( <i>Falco biarmicus</i> )	20'SW Iran Coast	S
		Wheatear		S
		2 unidentified warblers		S
2 Nov 0640	D	Grey Heron ( <i>Ardea cinerea</i> )	19°07'N 58°30'E	S 1½ hrs. Arr W, dep WNW.
			37'E Ras al Madraka	Light wind b
			63'S Masira	
1640		Desert Wheatear (2) ( <i>Oenanthe desertii</i> )	17°33'N 57°37'E	S. NNE/3 b
			68'E Kuria Muria Is	
3 Nov	D	Indian Roller ( <i>Coracias benghalensis</i> )	13°43'N 55°44'E	S. NE/3. Cloudy
			100'NE Socotra	
4 Nov 1700	D	Hobby (Juv.) (??)	10°10'N 54°06'E	S. Light airs b
		Falcon sp.?	148'SSW E Socotra	Another flew past heading SSW, also larger falcon
		Desert Wheatear (M)		

5 Nov 1700	D	Swallow	05°51'N 52°08'E 425' SSW E Socotra	Flew past close heading S
7 Nov 1330	D	Turnstone	01°00'S 48°58'E 280' SE Mogadishu	S. Light airs b
8 Nov 1700	D	Grey Plover? (2) ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> )	05°00'S 47°10'E 480' ESE Mombasa	Flew past heading NW. SW/4 overcast rain
10 Nov 0900	D	Squacco Heron ( <i>Ardeola valloides</i> )	10°31'S 43°23'E 48' N N Grand Comoro	S 9 hrs + SE/2

### 1976

28 Aug a.m.	MET	Blue-Cheeked Bee-Eater	12°30'N 45°E 25' S Aden	S. Capt. R. Frater, S.S. <i>Vancouver Island</i>
29 Aug p.m.	MET	Hoopoe ( <i>Upupa upops</i> )	15°N 51°45'E 30' SE Arabian Coast	S 2 days
15 Oct 2100	I	Little Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius dubius</i> )	25°32'N 53°09'E Oil Rig 63	S
18 Oct 1700	I	Swallow	Oil Rig 63	S 4 hrs. NW/4
18 Oct	X	House Martin ( <i>Delichon urbica</i> )	17°11'S 42°22'E 21' WSW Juan de Nova Is. 93' W Madagascar 150' E Mozambique	D 19th. X. Capt. Chilman, S.S. <i>Laconica</i>

### 1977

3 Jan	A	Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) Greenshank ( <i>Tringa nebularia</i> ) Turnstone Crab Plover ( <i>Dromas ardeola</i> ) Sanderling? ( <i>Calidris alba</i> )	10°30'S 47°58'E 50' SE Astore and Cosmoledo Gp.	Several. Wind SW/4 Several circling Small group circling Two large groups circling Several groups circling M.V. <i>Clan Malcolm</i>
Feb	MET	Grey Hooded Kingfisher (2) ( <i>Pseudhalcyon pallidiventris</i> )	Southern Red Sea	
18 Feb 0430	MET	Koel? (F) ( <i>Eudynamis scolopaceus</i> )	05°35'N 90°47'E 250' W Nicobar Is.	S.S. <i>Ben Wyvis</i> . S. D a.m. 20th

ANALYSIS BY SEA AREAS—TABLE F 1977 (continued)

Date (time)	Ref.	Species (Latin name)	Posn. (nearest land)	Remarks, weather, etc.
12-18 Apr	MET	Sparrow Sp.? (4)	35°S 25°30'E 60'S Port Elizabeth en route Australia	S.S. <i>Act I</i> . Nos diminished daily until none seen 19th
15 Apr 1650	MET	Greater Sand Plover ( <i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i> )	17°10'N 71°10'E 100'SW Bombay	M.V. <i>City of Worcester</i> . S until 16th
28 Apr	MET	Hoopoe also 2 bright yellow finches	Red Sea	M.V. <i>British Tay</i> (D. Thomas, 2nd Off)
3 Aug 1400	F	Isabelline Wheatear	12°17'N 49°18'E G. of Aden. 60'N Ethiopia	S 1 hr. SE/2
4 Aug	F	Isabelline Wheatear (4)	Red Sea Str. of Bab el Mandeb	S. Light airs



TABLE G  
PACIFIC

1976

Date (time)	Ref.	Species (Latin name)	Posn. (nearest land)	Remarks, weather, etc.
14 Aug	MET	Black-winged Stilt ( <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> )	16°20'N 126°36'E 200' NE Philippines	S 1 day. S.S. <i>Jervis Bay</i> (Capt. K. E. Howard)
21 Oct	MET	Long-billed Dowitcher? ( <i>Limnodromus griseus</i> )	150' SW Galapagos Is.	S 1 hr. Photo. M.V. <i>Tropic</i> (Capt. E. H. Gregson). ESE/3 overcast
22 Oct a.m. 1200 2355Z	MET	Long-billed Dowitcher? (2)	400' W Ecuador	S. Several others. A flock circled several times
		Osprey ( <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> )	02°45'N 85°W 300' W Ecuador	S until dark
3 Dec	MET	Snowy Egret (10) ( <i>Leucophoyx thula</i> )	10°N 100'W 390' SW Mexico	M.V. <i>Vancouver Forest</i> . S Flock slowly diminished until last one left. 16°N 130°W (1200' SW California)

1977

11 Feb	MET	Common Egret ( <i>Casmeroides albus</i> )	5°N 83°40'W 180' SW Costa Rica	M.V. <i>Gladstone Star</i> . S. dep p.m.
19 May	C	Oriental Turtle Dove (4) ( <i>Streptopelia orientalis</i> ) Barn Swallow ( <i>Hirundo rustica</i> ) Little Bunting (5) ( <i>Emberiza pusilla</i> )	32°44'N 127°14'E 70' W Japan	S 3-4 hrs. NE/2
22 May	C	Little Green Heron ( <i>Butorides striatus</i> )	29°32'N 124°15'E 120'E China	S few hrs S few hrs S few hrs. NE/3-4
23 May	C	Brown Shrike ( <i>Lanius cristatus</i> ) Barn Swallow House Martin ( <i>Delichon urbica</i> )	24°36'N 119°23'E Straits of Taiwan	S 30 mins S few hrs. NE/3-4

## SOME EXTRACTS FROM METEOROLOGICAL REPORTS 1976/77

From notes received and selected by  
Captain N. B. J. Stapleton, R.D.

At 1500 GMT on 17 May 1976 Captains J. A. McKay and D. G. Thomas of M.V. *Manchester Courage* whilst in position 45°55'N, 44°08'W observed a pair of Long-tailed Skuas (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) on migration in the North Atlantic; they flew around the ship for half an hour and then flew off to the South.

Later at 1730 GMT on 1 June, 1976 whilst in position 51°45'N, 28°15'W a flock of 80 Shearwaters. Great Shearwaters (*Puffinus gravis*) were sighted in a rain squall. Birds were taking off for about 20 seconds and then landing as a group.

The Observer in both cases was Mr J. P. Podmore, 2nd Officer, a member of the R.N.B.W.S.

On 16 November, 1976 Captain D. M. R. Maxwell of M.V. *Vancouver Forest* whilst in position 33°00'N, 69°00'W observed a Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis carolinenses*). These birds occur off the east coast of U.S.A. from North Carolina southwards and winter in Florida and in the Caribbean. They are very commonly seen.

In July, 1976 Captain G. D. Symonds on M.V. *Markor* sighted a Peale's Petrel (*Pterodroma inexpectata*) also called a Mottled Petrel. This species breed on both islands of New Zealand and outlying islands. After the breeding season it migrates north-eastwards across the Pacific and in the northern summer months many remain in the North Pacific eastwards towards Aleutian Islands and British Columbia. We have only one or two plots of Peale's Petrel in the North Pacific which confirms with the above note.

Captain M. J. MacNeil of M.V. *Ulster Star* whilst in position 14°00'N, 26°00'W on 14 May, 1977, a Red-billed Tropic-bird (*Phaethon aethereus*) inspected the ship for a time and seemed to be trying to land on the port lifeboat. However it gave it up and flew off. These birds breed on Cape Verde Islands and often range far out to sea.

Observer: Mr D. S. Fforde, Chief Officer.

On 13 April, 1977 whilst M.V. *British Spey*, Captain K. Meacock, was rounding southern Tasmania passing five miles off Mewstone Rock. Apart from passing showers visibility was excellent. Rough sea moderated with a heavy swell, later in the afternoon large numbers of White-capped Albatrosses, or Shy

Albatrosses (*Diomedea cauta*) were sighted close to the vessel. These birds breed on Albatross Rock in the Bass Strait and on the Mewstone Rock and Pedro Branca off Tasmania. The Pilot Book names this island as a breeding ground for these giant sea birds. The island looked very impressive with seas breaking on the rocks and spray hitting the almost vertical cliff face.

*Note:* Chicks are fully grown in mid-April so this species were likely to be present on Mewstone Rock at this date.  
Observer: Mr D. Handley, Second Officer.

On 15 October, 1976 R.R.S. *John Biscoe*, Captain E. M. S. Phelps, sighted a small black bird near the entrance to Rio de La Plata giving the impression of an old world Flycatcher. Its plumage was totally black except that a broad white patch occurred about half way along its complete flight feathers, forming a white bar across the wing.

Bruce Pearson made an excellent painting of the bird, which together with its description was sent to the Bird Room of the British Museum (Natural History) at Tring which kindly identified it as a Hudson's Black Tyrant (*Phaeotriccus hudsoni*), an American Flycatcher which breeds in South America and Rio Negro and winters north to parts of Brazil.

From S.S. *Encounter Bay* in position 38°51'S, 145°30'E, whilst off Cape Otway, Victoria, Australia the ship was taking radio D/F check bearings, and while searching for the radio beacon visually a large bird, identified as a Southern Great Skua (*Catharacta skua*) swooped down on to the Radio Officer's arm. Naturally, somewhat frightened, cover was sought in the wheelhouse. A short time later the bird hovered above the funnel and swooped upon anyone on the bridge wing as if to attack.

While the bird was on the Radio Officer's arm however it made no attempt to attack his face or body and it appeared to be attracted by the reflections of the sun on his wristwatch. The bird stayed with the ship for about an hour carrying out similar antics before finally flying away.

*Note:* This is not the first time these birds have alighted on the masts of ships and have been enticed down by waving a white handkerchief but never so inquisitive as to alight on a man's arm to "have a go at his wristwatch".

The M.V. *Clan Ranald* reported that a Red-footed Booby joined the ship in 07°00'S, 45°50'E (Indian Ocean east of Zanzibar) on 14 September, 1976 and travelled a distance of some 1900 miles before departing in position 17°45'N, 57°47'E, perching on the foremast to preen. Its main periods of feeding were during the forenoon and evening, avoiding the heat of the day. Its diet consisted entirely of flying-fish, the technique being to



fly up behind them, catch the fish in the air, toss it up and turn it around before swallowing it head first. The Chief Officer and the Booby Bird were not the best friends from the amount of guano deposited on the masts, deck and superstructure. The bird glared at the Chief Officer's raised voice, first shaking itself and finally "did a whoofsky" on him and ending any chance of a loving relationship.

From M.V. *Forties Kiwi* Captains G. Barber and J. Hobbs (British Petroleum Development).

"Since coming on station at the Forties Field in latitude 57°44'N, 00°55'E during the second half of October, 1976 Captain G. Barber reports that many different birds were sighted and caught onboard. The most common were Starlings, a common occurrence on the platforms, but the arrivals comprised a colony of Hooded Crows, many Chaffinches, Goldfinches, a Mallard Duck and a Water Rail, one of the latter surprisingly came into Mr Fraser's cabin and was kept overnight.

On 1 January, 1977 a Guillemot had been aboard for 3 days being fed, and then a Barnacle Goose. The ship was being troubled by the number of Seagulls landing on the helicopter deck but after chasing them for a week they kept clear. Both Guillemot and Barnacle Goose were handled without trouble".

Captain Barber has enquired whether it would be possible to obtain rings for marking birds.

A very nice painting of a Water Rail by Mr D. J. Fraser, Medic, was forwarded.

*Note:* Captain Tuck, Chairman of R.N.B.W.S. has raised the question of Ocean Weather Ships and other ships on station being allowed to ring birds onboard, for Observers responsible are perfectly capable of undertaking this if R.N.B.W.S. were given some instructions as to the method, and any further information on reports were supplied.

From Trawler Support Vessel M.V. *Miranda* off Iceland. Captain D. Y. Roberts of M.V. *Miranda* has sent in the following report:

"After visiting an iceberg of 600 ft waterline diameter and a height of two peaks of 80 ft and 120 ft the ship was in position 64°50'N, 11°50'W on 26 September, 1976 about 45 miles off the coast of S.E. Iceland. A considerable number of landbirds flew over and around the ship. Many came onboard and about twenty were found dead at daylight. During the remainder of 26 September and part of the 27 a couple of dozen birds were onboard and flying around. The species included a pair of Gyr Falcons (*Falco rusticolus*), Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*), Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) two or three Lapland Buntings (*Calcarius lapponicus*) whilst the majority were probably Snow

Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). The two falcons hunted and caught smaller birds in flight. One of the falcons brought its bird onboard to eat while the other consumed its prey in flight."

The following report has been received from M.V. *Port Alberni City* in position 34°N, 32°12'W on 26 October, 1976.

"Four Leach's Storm-Petrels were found onboard exhausted and covered in oil. They were cleaned by the methods previously described in the *Marine Observer* and later fed on tinned sardines which they appeared to enjoy. Over the next two days 3 of the birds made successful recoveries, the first two took flight at once; the 3rd bird, being kept for a further day before release, was raring to go, and when released never looked back. However, the 4th bird which had made little progress was found dead, unfortunately, on the third morning."

## SHORT NOTES

### GEORGIAN DIVING-PETREL, *Pelecanoides georgicus*, ONBOARD

Extract from a report by First Officer J. W. Welsh, M.N.

While on passage in S.S. *Jervis Bay* towards Australia on 16 June, 1977, in position 45°30'S, 101°35'E, midway between Kerguelen Islands and Cape Leenwin, Australia, a smallish sea-bird was found lying in the ship's empty swimming pool from which it was quite unable to get out.

At first it was thought to be a Common Diving-Petrel. It was taken in care for some eight hours and several sketches and full measurements taken by First Officer Welsh which proclaimed the species as a Georgian Diving-Petrel. A little later it recovered and was launched from the stern, glided into the sea and swam away rapidly on the surface.

(Note by Editor. Diving-Petrels are confined to the Southern Oceans, and with such short wings cannot normally glide and ride the winds, beating their wings rapidly and whirring close to the surface, often bouncing over the waves. There are only four species, and so similar that when observed at sea it is not possible to differentiate between them unless they can be examined in hand and their characteristics, especially the dimensions of their bills, measured and recorded.

First Officer Welsh considered that the bird must have become dazzled by the ship's lights over the swimming pool and hit part of the structure before tumbling into the pool.

Georgian Diving-Petrels breed on Kerguelen, Heard, Marion and Auckland Islands and at South Georgia.)



## NEW MEMBERS, 1977

Total 28

- Northcott, M. R., C.M.E.A.(P.), D/076683B, R.N., 27 Princess Mary Avenue, Khyber Road, Chatham, Kent.
- Moir, G. A., D14786IA, R.N., Aircraft Artificer Apprentice, 1 Perry Field Road, Southgate, Crawley, Sussex
- Dipple, D., Cadet M. N., 35 Barnfield Road, Bromsgrove, Worcs
- Keeble, C. L., Radio Officer M.N., 27 Queensberry Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 9NX
- Hicks, S., C.P.O., C.E.A.I., 63 Pewsham Road, Penhill, Swindon, Wiltshire
- Wagstaff, M. A., M.T.2(R.), R.N., 29 Malvern Road, Gosport, Hants
- Gonsky, D. M. Ex-V.S. Coastguard, 1121 East 48th Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11234 U.S.A.
- Adie, Mrs M. W., Ex.-Lady Purser, 25 Hinton Wood Avenue, Highcliffe, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 5AB
- Doherty, D. C., Lieut. R.N., 12 Moortown Avenue, Drayton, Portsmouth, Hants
- Byles, R. J., Chief Officer, M.N., 67 North Grange Road, Bearsden, Glasgow, GG1 3AG
- Gardner, W. J. R., Lieut. R.N., 22 Richards Close, Locks Heath, Hants
- Hart, K. E., Chief Engineer, M.N., Greencroft, Dunbar Road, Haddington, East Lothian, Scotland
- Hardie, A., Chief Cook M.N., c/o C. Paterson, 12D Lower Castlehill, Stirling, Scotland
- Barker, J. M., C.E.M.N., 8 Oaklands Grove, Cowplain, Hants, PO8 8SS
- Fitzpatrick, J., R.O. 1st Class, The Oval, Concord, Washington, Tyne and Wear
- Pardoe, N. L., Able Seaman R.N., 3 Blakeway Hollow, Much Wenlock, Salop
- Owen, R. J., Chief Officer M.N., 7 Ludgate Avenue, Kidderminster, Worcs, DY11 6JP
- Layman, C. H., Cdr. R.N., c/o Messrs Drummond, 49 Charing Cross, London, SW1A 2DX
- Leitch, R. L., Royal Research Ship Organisation, *Home*: 4 Burgh Walk, Gourrock, Strathclyde, Scotland
- Tibbs, J. D., C.P.O., Remn. 1st Class R.N., 39 Hobbs Crescent, Saltash, Cornwall
- Favaloro, Mr N. J., Australian Ornithologist, 199 Deakin Avenue, Mildura, Victoria, Australia, 3500
- Fronteras, P., Capt., Trinity House Pilot, 56 Macey Street, Torpoint, Cornwall



Morris, P. G., Chief Officer M.N., 2 Whitestone Close, Knowsley,  
 Prescott, Merseyside  
 Allison, N. A., Radio Officer M.N., Prah Place, Trewortha Road,  
 Prah Sands, Penzance, Cornwall, TR20 9SJ  
 Brocklehurst, J. K., 2nd Officer M.N., 2 Holmes Road, Whitnash,  
 Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV31 2RF  
 Bradley, James M., C.P.O., U.S.N., U.S. Navy Communication  
 Station, H.E. Holt, Exmouth, 6707, Western Australia  
 Mensink, P. J., 2nd Officer M.N., 98 Acomb Crescent, Red House  
 Farm Estate, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE3 2BD  
 Williams, P. D., 2nd Officer, Sub-Lieut. R.N.R., Y Rheithordy,  
 Criccieth, Gwynedd

#### NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS, 1977

Total 5

Jones, R. C., "Lindisfarne", 74 Riverdale, Wrecclesham, Farnham,  
 Surrey, GU10 4PJ  
 Gaynor, L., Ex.-Capt. U.S. Air Force, 152 Burgess Avenue, West-  
 wood, Massachusetts, 02090, U.S.A.  
 Sprunt, A., National Audubon Society, Box 231, Tavernier,  
 Florida, 33070, U.S.A.  
 Owens, A. J., 18 Chestnut Road, Cimla, Neath, W. Glamorgan,  
 SA11 3PB  
 Firth, P. E., John Moore Associates (P.R.) Ltd., 71 Fleet Street,  
 London, EC4Y 1EU

#### OBITUARY

Findlay, F., Chief Engineer M.N., 1977 (Member since 1956)  
 Keyte, J. H., Captain M.N., 1976 (Member since 1972)  
 Griffiths, C. J., 1976 (Member since 1971)

#### MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

Ex-Officio	7
Hon. Members	12
Life Members (original)	42
Life Members	11
Ordinary Members	261
Corporate Members	16

Totals: 333 Members + 16 Corporate Members = 349 and in  
 addition 84 Associate Members, Museums and Libraries.

*Forty-nine*

## 275

£

ds of the Society and certify that it is in accordance there-

R. G. PEGLER, F.C.A.,  
*Honorary Auditor.*

# THE ROYAL NAVAL BIRD

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

1975

1

£	£		£	£
		Balance 1st December, 1975		
	228.63	Cash in Bank	127.09	
449.45	220.82	Current Account Deposit Account	240.46	367.55
		Subscriptions		
	60.00	Under Covenant (Current Year)	73.00	
	277.01	Other (Current Year)	357.31	
	21.25	In Arrears	5.75	
	9.25	In Advance	19.67	
367.51				455.73
		Donations		
	39.82	Sundry	80.92	
	—	Special	126.60	
39.82				207.52
		Income Tax recovered on Members' Covenanted Subscriptions and Donations:		
		To April, 1975	28.85	
		To April, 1976	40.89	
32.84				69.74
13.31		Income Tax Transitional Relief 1976/77 (Final Payment)		2.66
14.95		Interest on Investment (Gross)		14.96
19.64		Interest on Deposit		15.40
		Other Receipts		
	141.18	Sale of <i>Sea Swallow</i> (Vol. 25 and earlier)	170.68	
	7.60	(Vol. 26 in advance)	1.00	
148.78				171.68
1.50		Sale of Christmas Cards at A.G.M.		4.70
18.14		(28) Sale of <i>Seabirds of S. Pacific</i> (48)		29.22
8.00		(5) Sale of Members' Ties (7)		14.00
		Balance Transferred from O.W.S. "Save the Birds Appeal" to R.N.B.W.S. Funds		—
164.97		Grant from R.N. and R.M. Sports Control Board		50.00
—		Grant from Fleet Amenities Fund		50.00
—				
£1278.92				£1453.16

I have examined the above account with the books and records with.

Costards,  
West Lavington,  
MIDHURST, Sussex.  
1st December, 1976